The Maryland Fruit Grower

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Edited by the Secretary, A. F. Vierheller, Extension Horticulturist

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THE ANNUAL MARYLAND MEETING

The Forty-Fourth Annual Meeting of Maryland State Horticultural Society will be held at Y. M. C. A., Hagerstown, Maryland, on January 5 and 6, 1942. Owing to several difficulties it was impossible to announce the dates earlier. The Programs may be a little late in reaching growers, but reserve these dates now. The Program Committee is working hard to get the best speakers to discuss some of the most pertinent problems that affect the growers and the industry. Plan to attend.

THE APPLE IN RHYME

"To regulate the human gizzard and all man's frame from A to izzard the good red apple is a wizard. When Mother Eva picked her lunch I'll say she had the proper punch. The one she ate she found a seed in, and having sneaked it out of Eden, she planted it and so I wist became the first pomologist, and put one over on her partner, who thought himself the only gardener. To eat each day a juicy pome will keep the doctor from your home. So shed your nightshirt, rise betimes, and pick yourself a Golden Grimes. No more I ween will old Doc Green come romping up in his machine, all set to amputate my spleen. No more he'll jab with hand expert to find the spots he knows will hurt. No longer overwork his brain and all its fine ball-bearings strain, determining a diagnosis before he tells me what the dose is. Instead of pills of varied size I'm eating Winesaps, Yorks and Spies. And you, I hope, will follow suit, and fill yourself with wholesome fruit." * * * Bob Adams.

THOSE MICE AGAIN

Mr. John Hamlet, Rodent Control Specialist, University of Maryland, College Park, has been doing some excellent work among growers in the Cumberland-Shenandoah section in demonstrating the use of mouse control methods. Interested growers should write him for information. Mr. Hamlet states:—

"This year, as in years past, the Fish and Wildlife Service has made a spring and fall population study of mice in orchards. It has found that there was a definite increase in population as was expected because of the cyclic population trends of these rodents. This means, of course, that the orchardist will have to be more on guard this year than in the previous two years because of this increase. This year, however, offers more danger from tree girdling mice than shows in the population increase. The extremely dry summer has cut down the amount of wild carrots, wild onions, morning glory bulbs, etc., which are the high food preferences of the pine mouse. The amount of orchard grasses and moisture content of these grasses has been definitely lowered, making the food getting for the common meadow

mouse more of a problem. It all leads to one thing and that is the definite danger to the roots of apple and peach trees this year because of increased populations and decreased food supplies for the mice. Those orchardists who do not obtain some control this year may be the ones who will make good example stories in demonstration talks in years to come.

The best control may be obtained by the use of zinc phosphide treated apple cubes and oats placed in the runways of the pine mouse and meadow mouse. It is understood, of course, that the deer mouse or white footed mouse—the variety with a long tail and shoe button eyes—does no damage to the tree trunk or roots but does go into the drops and apples in storage to get the seeds. Nor does the house mouse or jumping mouse gnaw the bark of trees. It must also be understood that all five of these mice abound in the orchards but the two that the orchardist must watch closely are the short-tailed meadow mouse that makes myriads of runways through the grass just on the surface of the ground and the pine mouse which is another short-tailed fellow that tunnels extensively under the surface of the ground. These two mice habitually stay in their runways and tunnels to get their food. This forces the orchardist to place the poisoned baits in their runways in order to get control.

Although this may sound like a tedious and expensive procedure, it really is not. It takes 1⅔ man-days per 25 acres to place the concentration stations for pine mice and from then on 1 man day per 25 acres to poison. To control meadow mice it takes 1 man day per 25 acres. The poison costs ten cents per can which is enough to treat 500 trees. The orchardist should have a demonstration on the technique of these control measures and if this method is followed to the letter, control of these tree girdling mice will be obtained."

COLD STORAGE HOLDINGS

Cold Storage Holdings, issued by Agricultural Marketing Service, U. S. Department of Agriculture, shows apples in storage as follows:

November 1, 1941—Barrels, 115,000; Western Boxes, 15,146,000; Eastern Boxes, 8,554,000; Bushel Baskets, 6,727,000; Total, 30,772,000 bushels.

October 1, 1941—Barrels, 25,000; Western Boxes, 3,909,000; Eastern Boxes, 4,402,000; Bushel Basket 1,965,000; Total, 10,351,000 bushels.

November 1, 1940—Barrels, 105,000; Western Boxes, 13,293,000; Eastern Boxes, 8,674,000; Bushel Baskets, 9,491,000; Total 31,773,000 bushels.

The Report states that it was exceedingly difficult to obtain complete cold storage holdings of apples for November 1, but the holdings are about one million bushels below those of a year ago, and about one million bushels above the 5 year average on this date for the years 1936-1940. Included in the above figures for November 1, 1941, are 2,139,000 bushels held by S. M. A. and most of this fruit is in the Appalachian region.

THE VIRGINIA MEETING

Virginia State Horticultural Society will meet at Roanoke, Virginia, on December 9, 10, and 11, 1941. The usual good program has been arranged, and Maryland growers have an open invitation to attend.

THE FRUIT EXHIBIT

Owing to requests for economy in the use of mimeograph paper the Rules and Entry Blanks for the Apple Exhibit are not enclosed with this issue of Maryland Fruit Grower, as usually has been done. The Exhibit is open to all Maryland growers. The classes are: (1) Plates—5 apples per plate; (2) Diamonds—16 apples per diamond; (3) Flats—sufficient apples to fill space 12 x 18 inches (about 24 three inch apples); (4) Fancy Baskets—a decorative fruit basket containing 12 to 15 apples of any or mixed varieties. A Sweepstake of $5.00 is given the exhibitor scoring most points on placings. The best plate in the Exhibit receives a $5.00 reward. Premiums are: Plates—$3.00, $2.00 and $1.00; Diamonds—$4.00, $3.00 and $1.50; Flats—$5.00, $4.00 and $2.00; Fancy Baskets—$7.00, $5.00 and $3.00. Growers interested in entering fruit in this Exhibit should write at once to A. F. Vierheller, College Park, Maryland, for copies of Rules, and Entry Blanks. The Class for Vocational Schools and 4-H Clubs will not be carried this year.

PENINSULA HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY MEETING

The Peninsula Horticultural Society has arranged an excellent program for their meetings at Cambridge, Maryland, on December 10, 11, and 12, 1941. Fruit and vegetable growers of Maryland, and especially of the Eastern Shore, should note with interest the new type of program arranged for the meeting of this Society. On December 12, sessions to attract both vegetable growers and fruit growers are going to cover the topics of "Better Marketing" and of "Soil Building" with Prof. G. L. Schuster, Director of Delaware Agricultural Experiment Station, in charge of the morning session, and Dr. R. B. Corbett, Director of the Maryland Experiment Station in charge of the afternoon session. Noted out-of-state speakers are on the program of these two sessions. To start the meetings on the afternoon of December 11 another innovation has been introduced in the form of numerous short talks on results of experimental work of interest to fruit growers, and a similar half-day session will be held on Friday morning, December 12, in the interest of the vegetable growers.

NO FRUIT OR VEGETABLE GROWER OF THE EASTERN SHORE CAN AFFORD TO MISS THESE MEETINGS.

THE STORY OF THE DELICIOUS APPLE

Many people probably have seen the original Delicious apple tree still standing on the William Landis farm north of Peru, Iowa. But few may know that we have those knobby red Delicious apples only by the merest chance; that the tree has been a cripple almost from the first. And nobody yet has told the whole story of Jesse Hiatt, stubborn old Quaker, who insisted he had the "world's best apple" (though nobody believed him for twenty years).

Hiatt pioneered on a half-section of prairie land in Madison County, Iowa, in 1856. A seedling grew in his orchard, a seedling that was to be very famous. He cut that seedling down when he first saw it in 1870! It was out of the row. That might have been the end of the Delicious apple right there. But the next spring it was up again, larger than before. He

ejaculated over it and said: "If you must live you may." When he noticed the tree again it was making progress with a round and bushy top. The tree was ten years old. He said to his wife one day: "Ma, there is a bloom on my new apple tree." Only one apple hung on till maturity, but what an apple! When he picked it, its fragrance filled the room. He took his pocket knife and carefully pared and tasted the apple. Never had he known such flavor. "Ma," he exclaimed, "this is the best apple in the whole world!" He never changed his mind. Hiatt named the apple the Hawkeye. The tree produced every year afterward, until it was filling a barrel.

It is one thing to be convinced you have the best apple in the world. It is quite another to convince the world of it. Hiatt sent the apples to the Iowa fairs. They got little notice. The premiums went to established varieties. He tried to persuade friends to promote the sale of his Hawkeye, but they could see no future in the apple At last, after eleven years, he sent four specimens to a fruit show at Louisiana, Mo. There they fell into the hands of a man who was looking for just such an apple. He was C. M. Start, senior member of the Stark Brothers Nursery, who staged the annual show. Stark always carried a little red book in his pocket. In this he was continually jotting down appropriate names for new fruit varieties as they occurred to him. So when he discovered a new variety he usually had the name already in this little book. For years, the book had retained the name Delicious. He was waiting for a fruit worthy of it. When he bit into the first apple in the lot from Madison County, Iowa, he had a sensation he never forgot. Here was the Delicious apple!

Stark would have written to Hiatt at once. But in the confusion of the show his name and address had been lost. Nobody knew where the apple had come from. He could do nothing but wait for another show on the bare chance that the unknown exhibitor would enter again. But if there was one thing the Quaker had learned, it was patience. He forwarded apples to the Missouri show the next year. Stark went through the exhibits anxiously. He knew the apples with their streaked strawberry color the moment he unwrapped them. Now he wrote to Hiatt, and lost no time in buying the propagating rights of the tree. Hiatt's Hawkeye became Delicious and the nation's leading apple. But first the nursery spent nearly a million dollars to advertise and introduce it. In the first quarter century they sent out almost eight million trees.

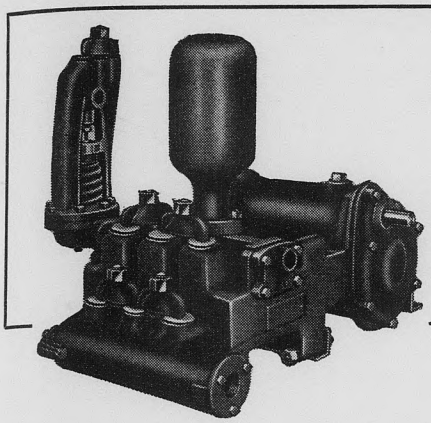
In the meantime, his achievement as yet unrecognized, the old Quaker built the new home that had waited so long and completed the few years remaining to him.—

(Wisconsin Horticulture)

ORIGINAL DELICIOUS APPLE TREE DEAD

The Patriarch of the Delicious Apple tree Family is dead. It originated as a sprout from the stump of a tree which was planted at Winterset. The tree was described by nurserymen as a mutaton—an offspring that develops totally different traits from the parent—because it produced a large, red apple which was totally different from apples of the parent tree. This was the first Delicious apple. Although the gnarled, old tree produced a heavy crop in 1940, the sudden freeze all over the state last Armistice day has concluded its sixty-nine years of life.

(T. B. Short, Fairfield, Iowa, in The American Fruit Grower.)



Cut Spraying Costs with

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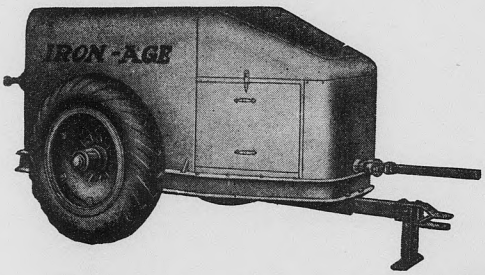
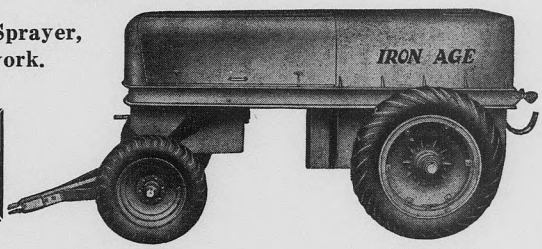
When spraying costs come down, crop profits go up. That's why large and small orchard growers everywhere praise the cost-cutting performance of the high pressure, easy working Victory Pump—heart of every Iron Age sprayer. Long life, slow speed Victory is horizontally designed for working pressures up to 1,000 pounds per square inch . . . its high pressure atomization makes every drop of insecticide count. Built in five sizes—6, 10, 14, 20 and 37 gallons-per-minute capacities. There's an Iron Age Sprayer for every orchard crop. Write for 1941 sprayer catalog . . . see how you can cut your spraying costs.



Iron Age Power Take-Off Tractor-Trailer Orchard Sprayer

Iron Age Short Turn Sprayer, ideal for orchard work.



Iron Age is the only sprayer with a "straight through" axle, Tank is supported on channel frame.

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SMALLER APPLE TREES

In these days of stream-lining, there is a feeling that the apple growers may come to the conclusion that smaller apple trees with more trees per acre may cut the growing costs to a point where such plantings may become the standard. Of course, this is only a thought, at present, for it has not been worked out in actual plantings. However, we do know that there is a great amount of work being done at State and Government Stations regarding the adaptability of several stocks which show promise of better hardiness, better union and growth, where grafted to certain commercial varieties. A recent article in "Pomological Pointers," published by Connecticut Pomological Society, February, 1941, may be of interest. In the article, Wesley P. Judkins stated:—

"Many tests have been conducted in the United States and Canada to determine if certain apple dwarfing stocks are suitable for commercial use. Malling stocks such as Nos. I and IV (and possibly VII) appear to offer real promise. These stocks give a semi-dwarf type of tree when used as under-stocks for many of our more important apple varieties. The trees are large enough so that economical commercial crops seem possible and yet the cost of pruning, spraying, thinning and picking should be considerably reduced. Such a tree does not have as long a life as one of standard size, but this is partly offset by the fact that it comes into bearing earlier. The earlier bearing and shorter lifetime may have an advantage in making it easier to change the variety of apples produced and thus meet the changing public demand.

The Malling IX gives a very dwarf tree which must be staked and carefully handled and seems to be useful only for the backyard garden and not for commercial planting. For the most part Malling stocks X to XVI produce vigorous standard sized-trees and offer no particular advantages over the usual nursery trees. Malling XIII is advertised by some nurserymen as a semi-dwarf but under most conditions it produces a tree of standard size.

As has already been stated, the Malling I and IV appear to be the most promising for commercial use. Both of the above types are suitable as stocks for most of the more important apple varieties except that Malling I does not give good results with Wealthy, Rhode Island Greening and possibly Rome Beauty. Malling II is promising, but the trees are usually smaller than I or IV and seem to be more exacting in soil and cultural requirements.

Trees budded on Malling I stocks are now being offered by several nurseries. Such stock gives semi-dwarf trees which are about three-fourths as large as standard trees at maturity. The early growth of a semi-dwarf is almost as rapid as that of a standard tree, but as soon as fruiting begins the dwarfing effect becomes more pronounced. Dwarf trees should be planted with the union just above the surface of the soil so that scion rooting may be prevented, since this would obliterate the dwarfing effect of the understock.

Although there is much work yet to be done by experiment stations, it seems that we are rapidly reaching the time when the growers who are interested in dwarf trees should set a few at the edge of their orchard to see how well they like them as compared to standard trees. These plantings, of only a few trees each, would be useful in properly evaluating the dwarf apple tree under commercial conditions."

There's a talk of permanent waves for men. Most of us old boys would be satisfied with permanent hair and let the waves go.

SPRAYERS

Three Bean Sprayers are for sale. Completely overhauled. Have 400 gallon tanks, Bean Royal pumps of 35 gallon-per-minute capacity and powered by Le Roi and Hercules engines. Very reasonably priced. Write W. F. Allen Company, Salisbury, Maryland, if interested.

PEACH PURCHASES

Surplus Marketing Administration bought 25,376 bushels of Maryland peaches this season. Fourteen growers entered the deal, selling from 196 to 5,252 bushels of peaches per grower at a total price of $25,992.60. The peaches were canned after purchase.

HINTS

Better look over machinery repair now, as parts may be hard to get. Any rubber-tired equipment should be jacked up off the floor, and blocked to prevent tire sidewall breakage. Maybe it's too late to say it, but be sure the sprayers are drained, and that water ballast in tires contains calcium chloride (20%) anti-freeze.

TREE REMOVAL

This is a good time to knock down some of those boarder trees. No use to keep trees just for sentiment. In Indiana, in 1939, it was found that a certain block of apple trees cost $1.25 more per tree per year, than the value of crop produced. These trees were removed at a cost of 81c per tree, and when the cordwood was sold, at 49c per tree, the removal cost was 32c. It requires nerve and money to remove trees, but maybe it requires more nerve and high costs to keep some of them. Age, vigor, variety or soil conditions may put trees in the debit column.

WHAT'S THIS?

It is estimated that it costs the American apple grower $17,500,000 to protect his crop from codling moth, but that he loses about 19,000,000 bushels of fruit valued at $13,500,000, or a total cost of $31,000,000. However, the protection measures save about $110,000,000 worth of apples. Let us Spray.

"Nora I want you to stand at the drawing room door, and call the guests' names as they arrive."

"Thanks, Ma'am, I've been wantin' to do that to some of your friends for years."

A farmer was cussing two balky mules when the parson drove by. "You're just the feller I'm lookin' for", shouted the farmer. "Tell me how Noah ever got two of these durn critters into the ark."

Said Willie: "I've walked to school with her twice, and carried her books, too. Then I bought her some ice cream. Now do you think I ought to kiss her?" Said Joe—"Naw, you've done enough for that girl already."

Have You Read the Advertisements?

What is Your Spray Problem ?

Let B. G. Pratt Sprays Help You

SCALE—**Scalecide** is the most effective and safe scale spray ever devised. It also cleans up cankers and improves the general vigor of the trees. Add 1 gallon **Straitar** to each 100 gallons of your **Scalecide** spray for stubborn cases of Oyster Shell, Scurfy scale and Peach Lecanium. For a low cost, safe dormant oil emulsion, use Pratt's **Spra-Cream.** It fills the bill as nothing else will do.

APHIS—Kill dormant rosy aphis eggs with the above **Scalecide** and **Straitar** spray applied in the delayed dormant season; or use 3½ gallons **Spra-Cream** with 1 pound Dow's Dinitro Dry Mix per 100 galons in the dormant season. One pint D-X added to your prepink or pink spray before the aphis curl the foliage is effective and less expensive than nicotine.

RED MITE—Either **Scalecide** or **Spra-Cream** as a delayed dormant spray controls this troublesome pest. When using **Spra-Cream** with Dinitro it is best to increase the dilution to 4 or 4½ gallons for red mite. Growers using **Spra-Cream** alone in the delayed dormant period for red mite need not stop spraying when the buds burst, but can cut the dilution to 2 gallons and continue spraying with safety and effective results.

MEALY BUG—After thoroughly scraping your trees, either mechanically or with a special gun on your sprayer, spray on a warm day in the dormant season with 6 gallons of **Scalecide** and 3 gallons **Straitar** or 4 gallons **Spra-Cream** and 3½ gallons **Straitar.** Use plenty of force.

B. G. PRATT COMPANY

Manufacturers of Scalecide, Spra-Cream, Straitar, D-X, etc.

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